

EP COUNCIL 3/11/24 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. May, Mr. Povenski, Dr. Rocco and Mr. Simpson. Also present was Village Manager Chad Edwards, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Clerk Misti Martin, BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. The minutes of the regular meeting of 2/22 and the special meetings of 2/26 & 3/4 were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Glavan. The February 2024 department reports were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Povenski. There were no clerk's or law director's reports.

AGENDA: 1. DUANE NICKELL COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATE-Mr. Nickell stated he was there to introduce himself and state that he is running for Columbiana County Commissioner. **2. ROBERTA BRITTAIN/BRENDA POVENSKI CHAMBER UPDATES**-Ms. Povenski stated she was recently elected as the Vice President of the EP Area Chamber of Commerce; she stated the chamber has been working with Roberta Streiffert of RCAP, which is a national nonprofit with a network of partnerships, to revamp and re-envision what the chamber should be moving forward and how it can best be beneficial to EP businesses. They have released a survey for both businesses and community members to find ways they can support and benefit the community. The survey will be available at the Municipal Building & Library as well as the Chamber website and Facebook page. She stated the main focus of the chamber will be on businesses but they also want community feedback to help determine what will draw the community back together. They will also be making changes to the meeting schedule; the Chamber Board will continue to meet twice a month and meetings will be open to the public every other month and the next public meeting will be April 15 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. The goal is for the Chamber to be an organization that businesses can rely on for support. **3. MARK DURNO USEPA, CHRIS HUNTSIGER NS, & BILL ZAWISKI OEPA TO PRESENT STREAM MITIGATION WORK PLAN.** Mr. Durno gave a presentation consisting of slides of the stream systems and derailment site. The primary update is a new workplan from NS that is now on the EPA website. The past assessment results have shown chemical levels decreasing. He noted all culverts have been cleaned except the one that runs under Terry Keresty's plaza which will be addressed in the new workplan. In the four that were cleaned they saw zero sheen as well as no voc's in the air and that there are oil related contaminants in the culvert under the plaza. The conclusion of the sheen assessment program is that there are still several areas with level two and three sheening which will be addressed (Sulphur Run). He stated Leslie Run would be treated differently as it is a cold-water habitat, and they would be much more careful how the sediment is addressed because of the sensitive species in that waterway. Mr. Durno stated the end goal is to not see sheen anymore and then reassess, there is surface water criteria that OEPA will advise on and also to make sure there are no exceedances for human health risk levels. He noted the lower part of Leslie Run shows the ecology has rebounded and he hopes to be able to say that about the upper part of Leslie Run in the near future. As far as the schedule the work began that day and they are continuing to work on the best possible route to move forward. The sediment mitigation work will take three to four weeks in Sulphur Run and another few weeks in Leslie Run; they will continue this work well into the summer. He stated there are areas of legacy contamination as well as areas with industrial contaminants but their goal is to wholly clean up the derailment related impacts. Resident Peggy Caratelli asked if the creek sediment mitigation will run consecutively or one after the other, Christ Huntsiger of NS said they will work upstream to downstream and that the entire process would be up to seven weeks however if there are areas that take long to clean up, they will stay longer. Dr. Rocco asked about foreseeable challenges, Mr. Durno said the legacy contamination areas could be more challenging in distinguishing what was there previously and what is due to the derailment, the legacy chemicals would be handled through other mechanisms. Mr. Blythe asked the process when legacy chemicals are found; Mr. Durno said that all depends on what it is and where it is. He said there is one area where OEPA has been working with the property owners of the old gas station to deal with contaminants. If contaminants are found that are clearly not related to the derailment and they don't know the source then it would be evaluated against health and ecological criteria and then go from there. Dr. Rocco asked how the ecosystems were looking, Mr. Huntsiger said they have basically recovered; the stream went from a complete kill to ecologically healthy in six months. Mr. Glavan asked if any of the results from the sediment testing are in yet. Mr. Durno said the EPA data for that testing is already

online and they are still reviewing the NS results which will be posted once the review is complete. Most of what they are seeing are oil related compounds at only two locations; one at a small section of stream on Rebecca St and the other location is on Leslie Run near the water treatment plant.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated a group called Dying Breed Diesels that normally meets in Columbiana but they cannot anymore so he invited them to give a presentation at the next Council meeting about having their show at the park.

MANAGER: Manager Edwards stated they are working on recruiting summer help for the park and the NS has agreed to pay for training and sign on bonuses for the lifeguards this summer. He stated he has spoken to the contractors about the roads and they will be doing spot patching and that he and W/WW Superintendent Wolfe will be doing a final walk through of the entire project when complete. He said they are working on material for the next newsletter including a QR code to register for Dog Days. He asked residents to please complete and return the lead line surveys.

STREET: Mr. Glavan asked for patience in reference to the street conditions from the waterline replacement project and the replacement sidewalks are going in on Clark St.

PARK/REC/CEM: Dr. Rocco stated we are currently looking for lifeguards and aquatics directors for the pool this summer and training costs will be covered by NS, there will also be a \$500 bonus. Prep work for this summer at the park has begun. Dog Days is coming up and registration will be available from the newsletter. She asked their things stood with legislation for alcohol in the park and if we could have that for the next meeting. Mr. Blythe asked about changing the verbiage for the park pool rates in reference to the active military rate and the possibility of adding "veteran" to it. Dr. Rocco asked for legislation at the next meeting permitting the sign on bonuses as covering the cost of lifeguard training by NS. The next Park Board meeting would be the 20th at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Mayor Conaway stated the pool fee for active and military veterans should be zero. Dr. Rocco made a motion to direct Atty. Powers to draw legislation to change the pool rate for active/military veterans to zero, seconded by Mr. Blythe. All in favor. Mayor Conaway called a Park/Rec/Cem Committee meeting for 6:30 pm prior to the next regular meeting on March 25 to discuss issues at Glenview Cemetery.

DEV/FINANCE: Ms. May stated the Port Authority met last week receive info on upcoming project and possibilities, updates will be given as details are made available. Bricker Graydon continues to meet and the newly formed EPCIC will have their first meeting soon and the RCAP Think Tank group will be meeting again soon.

UTILITY: Mr. Blythe stated the Water Plant and Water Line Replacement projects are both still ongoing with the end fast approaching. W/WW Superintendent Wolfe and Manager Edwards are holding the contractors accountable and things will hopefully be getting cleaned up. Superintendent Wolfe said the Water Plant filter project will probably be completed in approximately six weeks.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski that in Feb 2024 the PD received 548 self-initiated calls resulting in 128 reports. PD continued to provide security for NS Assistance Center as well as sporting events and traffic detail during the water line project. He added Cierra Coontz completed the police academy and has assumed full duties. The FD ran a total of 108 calls out of 119 calls received, Fire/EMS ran 11 combined calls, EMS ran 87 calls total resulting in 44 transports. Both departments were on Presidential detail and performed exceptionally well. BZ department issued 7 building permits, 8 contractor registrations and 3 food truck registrations and 2 vacant structure registrations for February. There are currently 8 buildings condemned.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: H. Paul Richter, Rich Spratt, Jerry Coblentz, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Rick & Karen Gorby, David Peters, Lou Sluwiski (?), Dan McKinstry, Zach Gorby, Christina Dilworth, Dave Biggins, Timothea Deeter, Lisa Mahoney, Steph Elverd, Brenda Povenski, Roberta Brittain, Traci Spratt, Fran Figley, John Davis.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 1-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance adopting a negotiated contract modification between the Village of East Palestine and the Teamsters Union and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Simpson made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Dr. Rocco. All in favor, passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Ord. 1-2024. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 2-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Glavan. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager, on behalf of Council, to enter into negotiations with MS Consultants inc., to provide professional design services and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Simpson made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Dr. Rocco. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Ord. 2-2024. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 3-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager, on behalf of the Village of East Palestine, to hire Traci Spratt, on a temporary basis for the purpose of continued coordination of recovery efforts from the train derailment and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Simpson made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency, seconded by Dr. Rocco. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Ord. 3-2024. Ms. May, Mr. Povenksi, Dr. Rocco, and Mr. Simpson voted yes, Mr. Blythe and Mr. Glavan voted no. Passed 4 – 2. Mr. Simpson introduced Res.6A-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **A resolution requesting the County Auditor to certify certain tax valuation information in anticipation of levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation.** Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Res.6A-2024. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: Dr. Rocco made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Simpson. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY